उत्तर प्रदेश में नये डाकघरों का खोला जाना

*357. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सातवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना की शेष अवधि के दौरान उत्तर प्रदेश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में और अधिक डाक-घर खोलने का कोई प्रस्ताव है, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री वीर बहादुर सिंह) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) सातवीं योजना के दो शेष वर्षों अर्थात् 1988-89 और 1989-90 में, प्रत्येक वर्ष में, 275 नए ग्रामीण डाक-घर खोलने का प्रस्ताव है ।

Rejection by ISRO of solar cell Manufactured by BHEL

*358. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR.

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire lot of solar cells manufactured by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) at its Rs. 40 lakh specially created facility at Bangalore, was rejected by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) as the cells were not found to be of acceptable space grade quality and that the order for about 1,17,000 solar cells placed by ISRO in August, 1981, could not be executed till March, 1985; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the overall profit/loss earned in this project by BHEL?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The manufacture of solar cells for space applications involves complex developmental efforts. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) entered into a development and supply contract for 1,17,000 (90,000 space qualified and 27,000 non-space qualified) solar cells with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) in July, 1981. A specific purchase order for 10,000 space qualified and 3,000 non-space qualified solar cells was placed on BHEL in August, 1981. BHEL obtained the basic technology from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and established additional facilities at a total cost of Rs. 39.38 lakhs including some common facilities which could be used for other products also. By March, 1985 BHEL supplied about 2000 solar cells. Though the cells came close to meeting acceptable quality, they did not fully meet ISRO's special specification for space quality cells. BHEL did not continue its efforts further due to techno-economic reasons. The contract was terminated in August, 1986. The loss incurred by BHEL in this project is estimated at Rs. 45.14 lakhs. Some of the facilities created are however being used for regular production of power devices as well as solar cells for terrestrial applications.

Upgrading of rural Telecommunication Net-Work

*359. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to upgrade the rural telecommunications network in the country;

(b) if so, what are the names of the States selected for the purpose; and

(c) how much funds have been allocated therefor?